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1996/06/20

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FN USDAO BEIJING CH
TO SECDEF WASHDC//USD

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TO SECDEF WASHDC//USDP// PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA-AP// JCS WASHDE//J2/J5//
SECSTATE WADHDC//EAF//

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J00/J5/J2// DIA WASHDC//DR/CC/DH-3A//

CONFIGENT: AL SECTION OF OF BEILING CH

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DIA VJ ACTION

INFO +DIA/SPEC

CITE: 0559/103

RETRANSMITTAL OF USDAO BEIJING MSG 0559 DTG 1808402 JUN 95 PER YOUR REQUEST

PASS: (U) PERSONAL FOR MR. SLOCOMBE (USDP); INFO SECDEF FOR DR. CAMPBELL AND COL EIKENBERRY (ISA-AP); CINCPAC FOR ADM PREUHER (JDO), MG STEELE (JS) AND RADM JACOBY (JZ); SECSTATE MR. WIEDEMANN AND MR. BADER (EAP); JCS MG KING (JZ) AND BG FOGLESOMG (JS); DIA FOR LTG HUGHES (DR), BG KERRICK (CC) AND DR. FONTANA (DH-JA) FROM BG MIKE BYRNES.

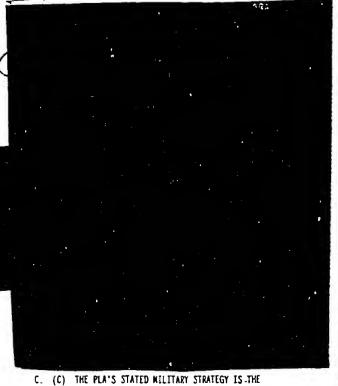
SUBJ: YOUR YISIT TO CHINA (U)

1. (C) AMBASSADOR SASSER AND USDAO BEIJING LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT TO BEIJING. WE SEE THIS VISIT AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THE SINO-U.S. MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. YOUR VISIT COMES AT A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TIME IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS AS EACH SIDES ARE IN THE MIDST OF ASSESSING THE EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR AND ARE DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH EACH OTHER IN THE MEAR TERM.

2. (C) WHILE THE U.S. POSITION HAS EVOLVED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS TOWARD A ROUGH CONSENSUS ON CHINA POLICY, THE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC OF CHINA'S CURRENT APPROACH TO THE U.S. IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHARPLY CONTRASTING VIEWS. THESE CONTRASTING VIEWS ARE MANIFEST IN VACILLATING POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE U.S. ON ANY GIVEN DAY ONE CAN PICK UP CHINESE PRESS ARTICLES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. AND OTHER ARTICLES WHICH ARE MUCH MORE MODERATE IN TONE. I BELIEVE THESE MIXED AND CONTRARY MESSAGES REFLECT AN ONGOING DEBATE WITHIN THE CHINESE BUREAUCRACY ON THE FOCUS OF U.S. OBJECTIVES TOWARDS CHINA AND, IN TURN, HOW CHINA SHOULD RELATE TO THE U.S.

5. IST BACKGROUND.

A. LOT CHINESE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS. FOLLOWING THE DEMG XIAOPING-INITIATED STRATEGIC SHIFT IN 1985, CHINESE NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNERS HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF JOLIS WHICH HAVE LEFT STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING IN A STATE OF CONFUSION. IN THE 1960'S THE PROCEDED A MONTHWARD ORIENTED, LARGE SCALE, NUCLEAR WAR SCENARIO IN WHICH CHINA WOULD BE ON THE STRATEGIC DEFENSIVE. IN THE LATE 1980'S, CHINA REFOCUSED ON A SOUTHWARD THREAT OF LOCAL, LIMITED WARS WITH A GREATER OFFENSIVE CONTENT THAN THE PRE-1985 STRATEGY. EVENTS SUCH AS TIANAMMEN, THE GULF WAR, AND THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE COMBINED TO DISRUPT THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY PROCESS. THE LACK OF AN UNAMBIGUOUS THREAT AND THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE MILITARY COMPONENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY HAVE TENDED TO INHIBIT STRATEGIC THINKING.



O STRATEGY OF LOCAL WARS. THIS IMPLIES A SHIFT FROM A

(M,C) CONTINENTAL FOCUS TO A MARITIME FOCUS. IF, AS IT

APPEARS. THIS SHIFT IS ACTUALIZED, IT WILL MARK A

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VAGUELY DEFINED STRATEGY OF ACTIVE DEFENSE. SOMEWHERE

UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ACTIVE DEFENSE IS THE SO CALLED

STRATEGIC REVOLUTION. THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A STRATEGY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THERE HAS BEEN MORE TOCUS RECENTLY ON AIR AND MARITIME MODERNIZATION, WITH POSSIBLE END GOAL OF DEVELOPING A LIMITED POWER POSSIBLE END GOAL OF DEVELOPING THIS ACTIVE DEFENSE AND LOCAL WAR CONCEPT IS THE PLA'S EMPHASIS ON OPERATING IN A HIGH TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT. U.S. SUCCESSES DURING THE GULF WAR AGAINST SOVIET STYLE FORCES, EQUIPMENT, AND TACTICS SHOOK THE PLA TO ITS ROOTS AND RESULTED IN A MAJOR EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR ITS FORCES.

E. LE WHILE CHINA S STATUS AS A GREAT MATION IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT, IT IS STILL LEARNING HOW TO SHOULDER THE BURDENS OF A GREAT MATION AND HOW TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY. WE DO NOT SEE CHINA AS A THREAT, BUT WE BELIEVE CHINA MUST DO NOT SEE CHINA AS A THREAT, BUT WE BELIEVE CHINA MUST OF ITS NEIGHBORS. THIS POINT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED TO YOUR CHINESE HOSTS. THE CHINESE APPEAR OBLIVIOUS TO THE IMPACT OF THEIR SECURITY AND MILITARY ACTIONS ON OTHERS IN THE REGION. CHINA IS LESS THAN OPEN IN ITS EXPLANATION OF ITS GROWING DEFENSE BUDGET, MILITARY PODEMICATION, AND MILITARY STRATEGY, THIS LACK OF OPENMESS OFTEN RESULTS IN GREATER SUSPICION THAN NECESSARY.

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PASS: (U) PERSONAL FOR MR. SLOCOMBE (USDP); INFO

- THE USG, INCLUDING DOO, SEEKS TO ENGAGE CHIMA AND TO COOPERATE WITH CHIMA IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY STRUCTURES AS A RESPONSIBLE POWER. THERE IS NO U.S. POLICY TO CONTAIN CHIMA.

- BOTH MILITARIES AND MATIONS HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE, PROVIDING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND CONTROLLING THE PROLIFERATION OF MEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

- THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OR TWO COUNTRIES IS A MORMAL AND SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND FOSTERED. THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP MUST BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY.

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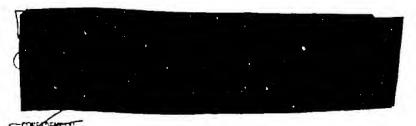
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- WE APPRECIATE THE PLA'S SUPPORT TO OUR VISITING DELEGATIONS AND TO OTHER DOD PROGRAMS SUCH AS MIA ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS.



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SUBJ: YOUR VISIT TO CHINA (U)

RELATIONSHIP. AS THE SECDEF SO APTLY POINTED OUT "IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO." VERY RESPECTFULLY, MIKE BYRNES. DATT BEIJING.

DRV FROM: DIA/DH-D MSG 2913307 JAN 96

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